

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for configuring a first network device in a  
5 communication network, comprising:

selecting one or more subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters by setting a variable to a certain value corresponding to the subset;

10 saving the values corresponding to the selected subsets to a configuration file on a server with the user interface;

loading the configuration file from the server to the first network device; and

setting software switches within the first network device based on the configuration file.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the subset or subsets are selected with a user interface.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface is a computing device

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal computer.

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5. The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal digital assistant.

6. The method of claim 1 where in the server is a trivial file transfer protocol server.

5 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the first network device is an embedded MTA.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication features facilitate communication between the first network device and a second  
10 network device.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a cable modem termination system.

15 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable provisioning server.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a media gateway.

20 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable call management server.

13. A system for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:

means for setting each of one or more communication parameter variables to a value corresponding to one or more subsets of a plurality of  
5 standardized network equipment configuration parameters;

means for saving the entered values to a configuration file;

means for loading the configuration file to the first network device;  
and

means for setting software switches within the first network device  
10 based on the configuration file.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the means for selecting and accepting includes a user interface.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the means for saving is a computer.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the means for loading includes a server.

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17. The system of claim 13 wherein the software switches are TLV variables that determine the data to be included in a communication message between the first network device and a second network device.

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18. The system of claim 13 wherein the means for setting the software switches includes operating system software and logic circuitry,

the logic circuitry, being under the control of the operating system software, being capable of inserting information into a communication message based on the configuration file.

19. A method for designating one or more of a plurality of communication parameters and features making up a communication protocol standard specification as belonging in a predetermined subset of said plurality of parameters and features, comprising:

5        collecting information associated with each one of a plurality of networking devices that are purported to implement and support said standard, said information including the parameters and features that are supported by each of said plurality of networking devices;

10      associating the information corresponding to each device with the device;

      determining patterns of support and implementation of the parameters and features of devices of a similar type based on the association of information with its corresponding device; and

15      designating subsets of standard parameters and features based on the determined patterns.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising determining patterns of features and parameters that are supported by devices of the same manufacturer.

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21      The method of claim 19 wherein the type of device is an embedded MTA.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the type of device is CMTS.

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23. The method of claim 19 wherein the type of device is provisioning server.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the type of device is call  
5 management server.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein the type of device is media gateway.

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